



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The Middle West Side. By OTHO G. CARTWRIGHT. Pp. 67.

Mothers Who Must Earn. By KATHERINE ANTHONY. Pp. 223.

In one volume, published by the Russell Sage Foundation.

New York: Survey Associates, Inc., 1914.

The first of these studies presents an interesting account of the transformation of four hundred acres of farm land into eighty dismal city blocks now forming part of New York's West side. It is the familiar story of unexpected increases of land values, absentee landlordism, makeshift housing, and "helpless and uncritical tenants." The author finds that the land increased in value during the nineteenth century about a thousand fold, which is equivalent to nearly 100,000 per cent. "It is estimated, for instance, that the farm purchased by the Astors in 1803 for \$25,000 would now sell for \$25,000,000. But the Astor Estate does not sell any more land. It gives leaseholds for twenty-one years with the privilege of two renewals, at the end of which time the land must be surrendered to the owners. Tenement builders on such leases must therefore make their houses pay not only the original investment in full, so that the houses may be pulled down at the end of sixty-three years without loss, but must derive an income therefrom in addition to the return of the capital. Moreover, at each renewal of the lease it is the custom to increase the ground rent, so that the tendency of rentals for tenement flats built upon this land is almost inevitably upward" (pp. 20-21).

Miss Anthony's intimate study of the lives of *Mothers Who Must Earn* is recommended to all persons of either sex, who have leisure enough either to worry or to complain, and particularly to all women who are contemplating nervous prostration in any of its forms. The record of the lives of these working women, often heroic and always strenuous, is wholesome reading. But quite apart from its tonic value, it throws much light upon certain aspects of the great and growing problem of women at work. The last census shows that the percentage of women employed at gainful occupations increased during the years 1900 to 1910 for every age group, and in every state of the Union with two unimportant exceptions. Thus out of every one hundred girls sixteen to twenty years old, forty were at work in 1910, while only thirty-two out of a hundred were at work in 1900. Similarly, out of every one hundred women twenty-one to forty-four years old, twenty-six were engaged in gainful work in 1910 as against twenty-one in 1900.

This study comprises 370 cases. "They were the wives and widows of underemployed and underpaid men and were compelled to contribute to the family whatever earning value their labor possessed." Racially, they were, to a considerable extent, English-speaking women of German or Irish antecedents. The principal occupations followed were: housework by the day, 90; manufacturing and mechanical pursuits (including 33 laundry workers), 86; public cleaning (hotels, office buildings, etc.), 82; janitor work, 49. Occupations requiring a neat and attractive appearance, or a considerable degree of skill or adaptability, were pursued by only a few of these women, who, for the most part, had only strength or industry to offer in the labor market. The average earnings of the whole group were between five and six dollars a week. Some of the laundry workers received but \$4.50 for a sixty-hour week!

From \$8.00 to \$10.00 a week may be regarded as a fair minimum wage for single women with no one dependent upon them, but 55 widows in this group supported families averaging 3.2 persons, on an average weekly income of \$7.60 or \$353 a year. No wonder that "Even in the coldest weather a fire is made in the kitchen stove only mornings and evenings."

In a concluding note the author records her conviction that not one of these 370 mothers, 163 of whom had husbands at work, "could afford not to earn. . . . Their children would have suffered seriously had they failed or refused to earn." Thus on the Middle West Side, as in many and many another corner of the land, the comfortable American theory that a family looks for support to the husband and father has proved ominously at variance with the facts.

ERVILLE BARTLETT WOODS

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Out of Work: A Study of Unemployment. By FRANCES KELLOR.

Putnam, 1915. Pp. xii+569. \$1.50.

The relative emphasis which Miss Kellor gives to the various aspects of unemployment is an accurate and discouraging index of our American knowledge of the subject. However, considering that this is the first important study of the kind published in this country, the emphasis no doubt has a certain practical justification. There is no question as to the need of labor exchanges, but to treat of this need through over two-thirds of the volume seems an undue stress. Of course it is to be remembered that in the United States these exchanges are still new and few; admittedly the first attention must be to them. That more is not made